

PREFACE

The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency is the lead agency for traffic safety in the State of California. It oversees the activities of the Office of Traffic Safety and Departments of California Highway Patrol, Transportation, and Motor Vehicles.

The California Highway Patrol has prepared the 2006 Annual Report of Fatal and Injury Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions. This Report was completed as a result of motor vehicle traffic collision reports received from local police and sheriff jurisdictions and from California Highway Patrol field offices.

The Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) processes all reported fatal and injury collisions which occurred on California's state highways and all other roadways, excluding private property.

SWITRS, a 34 year old system, was re-engineered beginning with 2002 data to take advantage of advances in computer technology. Additionally, changes were made to definition of some data elements and corresponding logic processes to reflect current industry practices. Due to these changes in the program and the processing of traffic collision reports, portions of the current data are not directly comparable to data from years prior to 2002.

As previously reported, the Traffic Collision Report form was revised in July 2003. A change was made to the entry method for vehicle type. Following this revision, a significant number of reports have been submitted without data in the vehicle code field or are entering an incorrect code. Due to this error, the number of "Not Stated" vehicle types has greatly increased. As a result, the data in tables, such as "truck involved collision" or "motorcycle involved collisions" that use vehicle type may be under reported.

Property Damage Only (PDO) collisions are found in Sections 1 and 8 of this publication. PDOs are indicators of the volume of traffic collisions and are not exact statistics. This is due to some agencies reporting only partial numbers of their PDO collisions or none at all.

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 2408 of the California Vehicle Code. The cooperation of all traffic law enforcement agencies is greatly appreciated.

This report can also be viewed at the California Highway Patrol Internet Home Page at <http://www.chp.ca.gov> under "Home." Scroll down to the section: "In the CHP News...." and the current annual report will be available as "SWITRS 2006 Report."